

Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club Contest Handbook 2025



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The Rabbit Ambassador Contest

is a comprehensive evaluation of a 4-H member's knowledge and skills in the area of rabbits. The evaluation has three components: knowledge test, breed identification, and showmanship. In this contest boys and girls compete in the same category according to the grade in which they were enrolled on January 1 of the current year. See your local extension educator for procedures in the case of grade retention.

The grades are divided into the following five categories.

Grades 3 and 4.....Novice category
Grades 5 and 6...Junior category
Grades 7 and 8.....Intermediate category
Grades 9 and 10...Senior category
Grades 11 and 12... Master category

Once a contestant has won a category at the state fair, s/he would move up to the next category if competing the following year. It is recommended that a category winner not advance to the next level in the county competition unless s/he has won that category at state fair. The exception would be for contestants who are advancing with their age group. The contestant has responsibilities to be prepared for the competition. The contestant should supply number 2 pencils for the written and breed id portions of the competition. It is the contestant's responsibility to be familiar with the rules and procedures.

State Fair Eligible:

The Grand Champion of each grade level will be eligible to represent Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club at the Indiana State Fair. If the Grand Champion of a level is unable to participate at Indiana State Fair, the Reserve Grand Champion will be selected to go. **PLEASE let the Leaders know by 6pm Wednesday if you plan on participating at Indiana State Fair.**

Knowledge Test

The resources for the knowledge test for all categories are Domestic Rabbit Guide and the current Standard of Perfection, both published by the ARBA (www.arba.net). In the event of a conflict of information, the Standard of Perfection is considered the authority.

The number of questions varies according to the category.

The test for the novice and junior categories has 25 questions, each worth four (4) points.

The test for the intermediate, senior, and master categories has 50 questions, each worth two (2) points. The questions may be true/false, multiple choice, matching, or a combination.

The questions, particularly at the younger levels (novice, junior), are intended to be general knowledge. Upper level (intermediate, senior, master) contestants are more knowledgeable and will find more specific questions on the test. A total of 100 points is awarded to this portion of the contest.

Breed Identification

The breed identification portion of the contest allows the contestant to demonstrate his/her knowledge of breeds of rabbits and the format in which rabbits are entered in a show. The contestant identifies each of ten (10) animals according to the breed, showroom classification, and class. All of the animals in the breed identification portion are senior animals of breeds recognized by the ARBA. This portion of the contest is worth sixty (60) points.

Terms used in the breed identification contest are found in the Standard of Perfection published by the American Rabbit Breeders Association.

“Breed” refers to a class of rabbits with distinctive characteristics.

“Showroom Classification” refers to the term used for judging/showing. This information may be found in the Standard of Perfection. If a showroom classification is not specified, the correct response would be NOV or “no other variety”. Pay particular attention to the Jersey Wooly and Netherland Dwarf breeds. The Jersey Wooly is shown by groups so the correct showroom classification would be a group. The Netherland Dwarf is shown by variety so the correct showroom classification would be a variety. The purpose of being specific is to assist the contestant in developing the life skill needed to successfully participate in shows by entering animals appropriately. The Standard of Perfection is considered the authority. All responses should be as indicated in the first edition of the most recent Standard of Perfection.

“Class” column refers to whether the rabbit is a 4 class animal or a 6 class animal. Four class animals show in four classes: senior bucks, senior does, junior bucks, junior does. Six class rabbits show in six classes: senior bucks, senior does, 6/8 (intermediate) bucks, 6/8 (intermediate) does, junior bucks, junior does.

The format of the breed identification portion of the contest is similar to a multiple choice test. Refer to the “Rabbit 1” page and the “Breed Identification Worksheet pages at the end of this publication as you read through the following procedures. Each of the ten rabbits/cages in breed identification will have a form on it listing Rabbit 1, Rabbit 2, Rabbit 3, etc. through Rabbit 10. The rabbit “number” on the cage correlates to the Rabbit 1, Rabbit 2, Rabbit 3, down the left side of the worksheet. The numbers below the columns correlate with breed, showroom classification, and class going across the worksheet. The numbers within each column are matched with the appropriate box on the worksheet to record an answer. It’s not as confusing as it sounds.

Let’s try it! Example You are facing the first cage of Breed Id. The sign on the cage says “Rabbit 1” so you will be using the first row on your worksheet. Look at the “Breed” column on the cage and determine the breed of the rabbit in the cage. Okay, it’s a Flemish Giant, you say, which is number 55. At the bottom of the column is a 1). Go to your worksheet, find 1), and circle the 55. Now decide the showroom classification. You think it’s a blue. That’s number 44 and 2) is at the bottom of that column. Go to your worksheet, find 2), and circle the 44. Now, is it six class or four class? Right, six. At the bottom of that column is a 3). Go to the 3) on your worksheet and circle the 33. Good job, Rabbit 1 is done! Proceed to Rabbit 2. Here you will be answering questions 4, 5, and 6 on your worksheet. Follow the same procedure of deciding the breed, the showroom classification, and the class and marking the number on the worksheet. Continue the same procedure for all ten rabbits. There will be volunteers to help throughout the Breed Identification process.

RABBIT 1 SAMPLE CAGE CARD

BREED	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	CLASS
33 American	33 Lilac	33 Six
44 Beveren	44 Blue	44 Four
55 Flemish Giant	55 Light Gray	
66 New Zealand	66 Standard / NOV	

1)

2)

3)

BREED IDENTIFICATION WORKSHEET

Name _____

Place Sticker Here

Circle the **NUMBER** that matches the breed,
showroom classification, and class for each rabbit

	BREED	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	CLASS
Rabbit 1	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 2	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 3	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 4	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 5	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 6	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 7	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 8	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 9	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44
Rabbit 10	33 44 55 66	33 44 55 66	33 44

Showmanship

In the showmanship portion of the Rabbit Ambassador Contest, the contestant demonstrates ability to evaluate a rabbit according to the standard for type and disqualifications. This life skill allows the contestant, as a rabbit breeder, to select animals for the purpose of breeding, showing, or culling. The showmanship form and expectations reflect the mission of showmanship: to compare a rabbit to the standard for its breed and determine the best use of that rabbit in a herd. The most important aspect of the showmanship procedure, beyond the steps on the score sheet, is to provide necessary information while omitting extraneous information. For example, the length of ears required for showing an English Lop is necessary information; the history of the breed is extraneous information. If the contestant thinks in terms of a life skill, of performing this procedure with a large number of rabbits to determine the best use of the animal, s/he will be more successful in this event. The current showmanship form (4-H 847) should be studied before the competition. This portion of the contest is worth 100 points

Suggestions for success with the showmanship procedure follow.

1. Be concise. Think in terms of doing this with 52 rabbits. Only impart information that is necessary.
2. Think of the procedure as “head to tail”.
3. Be sure to TALK! The judge has to score your sheet and may miss something if you do not verbalize what you are doing.
4. It is not uncommon for contestants to have a “showmanship rabbit”, one that is trained, so to speak, for showmanship. Rabbit Must be Entered and Checked In during Fair Week
5. Go through the routine in the order it is presented on the form.

Showmanship Procedures

PRESENTATION

- Proper Clothing
 1. White Shirt, Black Pants, and Black Closed-Toed Shoes
 2. A Show Coat will be available if you do not have your own
 3. Hair Pulled back
 4. No Jewelry

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- First priority is the safety of the animal and the exhibitor.
- **EVERY TIME** a rabbit is picked up, the **BART** procedure should be used. One hand under the Belly And one hand supporting the Rump, then Tuck along the arm. (Think: Belly And Rump, Tuck)
- TALK so the judge does not miss a procedure while looking at the score sheet.
- Be concise. Do not include information that is not relevant
- The following code is used to specify how the points are distributed. A=Action, R=Reason, T=Term

LIFT AND CARRY

- Properly lift the rabbit and carry to the table.
- Close the carrier or cage while holding the rabbit in the BART position OR

POSE

- See the Standard of Perfection for the correct pose for your breed.
- Running breeds should be run, not posed and this should be explained to the judge.

CHECK EARS

- Expose canals thoroughly.
- Look down into each canal and explain why you are checking the canals.
- Make sure you read the Rabbit's Ear Tattoo and turn the rabbit around to show the other ear

LIFT AND TURN OVER

- Three acceptable ways to grasp the head:
 1. Grasp the nape of the neck with the two ears included.
 2. Grasp the nape of the neck while holding the ears between the index finger and the middle finger.
 3. If your hand is large, grasp the neck bringing the thumb and middle finger around each side of the head to stabilize the head.
- The opposite hand is under the rump.
- The rabbit should be rested on the table.

CHECK EYES

- Turn the head to check the eyes.
- The rabbit may be lifted from the table to turn the head.
- "Properly Open" indicates naturally open. The eyes are not to be touched or forced open. It is acceptable to point to the eye or to gently place a finger near the eye.
- Explain why you are looking at the eyes.

CHECK NOSE

- The nose may be checked while checking eyes or teeth, just be sure to mention it.
- The Proper position for the hand is away from the nostrils so they are both clearly exposed.
- Explain why you are looking at the nostrils and front legs.

CHECK TEETH

- Place the hand over the bridge of the rabbit's nose. Using the thumb and index finger on each side, carefully pull backward to show top and bottom teeth.
- Explain why you are looking at the teeth.

CHECK FRONT FEET & LEGS

- Place the thumb on the pad of the foot and press gently causing the toenails to extend.
- Use the index finger to check each toenail.
- Gently extend the legs by grasping the foot and pulling upward.
- Explain why you are looking at the toenails, pads, and legs.
- Count the toenails, 1, 2, 3, 4, plus the dewclaw.
- Go Slow. There are a lot of points on this section and going too fast can make scoring difficult for the judge.

CHECK BELLY

- Be thorough. Use firm Motions.
- Explain why you are looking at the jaw, chest, belly, and sides.

CHECK REAR FEET & LEGS

- Place the thumb on the pad of the foot and press gently causing the toenails to extend.
- Use the index finger to check each toenail and count them 1, 2, 3, 4.
- The rabbit should be turned parallel with edge of the table to check the hind legs.
- Explain why you are looking at the rear legs, toenails, and hocks.

CHECK SEX & TAIL

- The rabbit should remain parallel to the edge of the table. If the contestant is able to turn the rabbit completely towards the judge while maintaining control, that is acceptable.
- Sex should be checked by grasping the tail between the index finger and middle finger and pulling backward while pushing down with the thumb to expose sex.
- Check the tail by moving it from side to side and running your thumb and forefinger down the tailbone to check for curve or breakage.

EVALUATE THE RABBIT

- Contestant evaluates each area of the rabbit.
- TOUCH each area as you refer to it.
- Refer to the head and assess it but do NOT touch it. (see next comment)
- Contestant is given credit for evaluation as long as each area of the rabbit is evaluated. Credit may be denied if there is an obvious discrepancy between the contestant's evaluation and the judge's visual evaluation (as in condition of the coat)

FINAL POSE

- Pose in all four positions using proper lift technique.
- Step back between each pose to evaluate overall look of the animal.
- Running breeds should be 'posed' by allowing the animal to run to the right, left, away from, and toward the contestant.

RETURN RABBIT

- Properly lift and carry the rabbit from the table.
- Open the carrier or cage properly place the rabbit in it.
- Close and latch carrier or cage.
- Return to the table for dismissal.

Indiana 4-H Rabbit Ambassador
RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEET

4-H 847 Rev. 3/08

CIRCLE ONE: Novice Junior Intermediate

Senior Master

PLACE LABEL HERE

JUDGES: DO NOT GIVE HALF POINTS

A: action	T: term	R: reason	PTS.
PROCEDURE			
LIFT & CARRY.....	Max Pts. 4		
Proper removal from carrier/cage	A.... 1 ... []		
Proper support of body & head	A.... 1 ... []		
Maintain hold on rabbit.....	A.... 1 ... []		
Close & latch carrier/cage.....	A.... 1 ... []		
POSE.....			Max Pts. 2
Correct pose for breed	A.... 1 ... []		
Behaved animal	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK EARS.....			Max Pts. 4
<i>(canals must be properly exposed)</i>			
Check both ears.....	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
Read tattoo	A.... 1 ... []		
LIFT & TURN OVER			Max Pts. 3
Proper technique	A.... 1 ... []		
Smooth motion & maintain control	A.... 1 ... []		
Rest weight of rabbit on table	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK EYES			Max Pts. 3
Show both eyes	A.... R.... 2 ... []		
Eyes properly open (not forced)	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK NOSE			Max Pts. 6
Show both nostrils	A.... R.... 2 ... []		
Proper position of hand & rabbit	A.... 1 ... []		
Check front legs (1pt/leg)	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
CHECK TEETH			Max Pts. 5
Show top & bottom teeth	A.... R.... T.... 3 ... []		
Proper hand position.....	A.... 1 ... []		
Shows teeth on first attempt	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK FRONT FEET & LEGS			Max Pts. 12
Check front legs	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
Check front toenails.....	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
Name dewclaws	T.... 1 ... []		
Check front pads	A.... A.... R.... T.... 4 ... []		
Proper placement of thumb	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK BELLY			Max Pts. 10
Check under jaw	A.... T.... 2 ... []		
Check chest.....	A.... T.... 2 ... []		
Check belly area.....	A.... T.... R.... 3 ... []		
Check side body area	A.... 1 ... []		
Deliberate, firm motions	A.... 1 ... []		
Maintains control of animal.....	A.... 1 ... []		
CHECK REAR FEET & LEGS.....			Max Pts. 12
Check rear legs.....	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
Check rear toenails.....	A.... A.... R.... 3 ... []		
Check hocks	A.... A.... R.... T.... 4 ... []		
Proper use of thumb	A.... 1 ... []		
Proper position of hands & rabbit.....	A.... 1 ... []		

PROCEDURE	PTS.
CHECK SEX & TAIL..... Max Pts. 9	
Proper turn & position of rabbitA....1...[]	
Check sexA....T....2...[]	
Properly expose vent/penis & testicles ...A...T....R....3...[]	
Check tailA....R....2...[]	
Maintains control of animalA....1...[]	
EVALUATE RABBIT..... Max Pts. 11	
Head.....A....1...[]	
Ear carriage.....A....1...[]	
ShouldersA....1...[]	
Ribs/midsection.....A....1...[]	
LoinA....1...[]	
Rump.....A....1...[]	
Lower hindquartersA....1...[]	
Show flyback/rollback on normal fur OR show Rex or Angora properly..A....1...[]	
Show density, texture, condition A....R....2...[]	
Deliberate, firm motionsA....1...[]	
FINAL POSE Max Pts. 5	
Show correct pose for breedA....1...[]	
Tail showing properly.....A....1...[]	
Feet tucked in properlyA....1...[]	
Proper lift & turnA....1...[]	
Show all 4 viewsA....1...[]	
RETURN RABBIT..... Max Pts. 4	
Proper lift from table.....A....1...[]	
Proper support of body & headA....1...[]	
Maintain hold on rabbit.....A....1...[]	
Close & latch carrier/cage.....A....1...[]	
PRESENTATION..... Max Pts. 10	
Contestant appearance	
Appropriate clothing1...[]	
Good posture.....1...[]	
Hair neatly groomed1...[]	
Relevant information only.....2...[]	
Good eye contact with judge1...[]	
Smooth & organized presentation1...[]	
Follows judge's directions1...[]	
General health, cleanliness of animal1...[]	
Handles rabbit gently, safely1...[]	

SCORE/100PTS
DO NOT GIVE HALF POINTS

Small Animal Round Robin

The Highest Showmanship Score between the Senior Division and the Master Division will be eligible to represent the Rabbit Club in the Small Animal Round Robin Contest. The Reserve Senior / Master Showmanship will be the alternate. In the event there are no eligible Senior / Master members, the representative will be the Grand Champion of the Intermediate Division.

Prior to the Small Animal Round Robin Contest, the Rabbit Club Showmanship Representative are responsible for contacting the other participating clubs Showmanship Winners in order to obtain information on the species and get instructions on their showmanship techniques. In case of a tie in the Small Animal Round Robin Contest, the participants will be required to answer questions that have been taken from these information sheets, in order to determine the placing. If you win the Small Animal Round Robin Contest you will not be able to compete in any following years. Any other placing is eligible for the following years.

Action Demonstration Contest

The Action Demonstration Contest is an educational contest for any 4-H Rabbit Member. This Contest is a hands on Demonstration using the audience in helping you with your project. It is a 5-10 Minute Demonstration Goal.

The 4-H Action Demonstration Contest will have the following Levels:

- Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)
- Junior (5th and 6th Grade)
- Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)
- Senior (9th and 10th Grade)
- Master (11th and 12th Grade)

Each member will receive a Participate Ribbon and a Medal during awards for the Grand and Reserve Champion for each Level

Expectations	Distinguished	Excellent	Fully Met	Partially Met	Needs Imp.
<u>PRESENTATION COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>SUMMARY</u>					
Review of key points					
Appropriate closure of demonstration					
<u>COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>PRESENTER(S)</u>					
Attire					
Posture					
Eye contact with audience					
Gestures and facial expressions					
Voice volume, projection, expression					
Word enunciation and pronunciation					
Rate of speaking					
<u>COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>OVERALL PRESENTATION</u>					
Audience learned/wants to learn more about this topic					
Answered judges' questions with ease					
<u>GENERAL COMMENTS:</u>					

Rabbit Illustrated Talk

The Rabbit Illustrated Talk Contest is an educational contest for any 4-H Rabbit Member. The 4-H Rabbit Member will use a poster and presentation to an audience. It is a 5-7 Minute Illustrated Talk Goal.

The Rabbit Illustrated Talk Contest will have the following Levels:

- Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)
- Junior (5th and 6th Grade)
- Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)
- Senior (9th and 10th Grade)
- Master (11th and 12th Grade)

Requirements:

- Presentation should be of original and of practical nature related to some phase of the rabbit industry. Elaborate and expensive equipment cannot be justified.
- Rabbit Club Member can use their poster they submitted in the ECCC during fair week but it is their responsibility to check them out and return them in a timely matter

Each member will receive a Participate Ribbon and a Medal during awards for the Grand and Reserve Champion for each Level



PURDUE
EXTENSION

4-H 914-W
Revised 07/13

Placing _____

RABBIT OR POULTRY ILLUSTRATED TALK

Category _____ Time _____ (5-7 minutes)

Name(s) _____

Title of Demonstration _____ Club/County _____

Expectations	Distinguished	Excellent	Fully Met	Partially Met	Needs Imp.
INTRODUCTION Entered in correct category Caught audience's attention Correlated topic to presenter/audience Provided presentation objectives					
COMMENTS:					
CONTENT Subject is division appropriate Content is division appropriate Information/activities organized and easy to follow Knowledgeable of subject					
COMMENTS:					
PRESENTATION Organization of materials/equipment Appropriate use of materials/equipment Appropriate safety measures observed Audience able to see activities Ongoing dialogue during activities Posters/Powerpoint readable Key points emphasized on visual aids Appropriate number and timing of slides/posters <i>Team Demo – equal/appropriate division of activities/discussion</i>					

Expectations	Distinguished	Excellent	Fully Met	Partially Met	Needs Imp.
<u>PRESENTATION COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>SUMMARY</u> Review of key points Appropriate closure of demonstration					
<u>COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>PRESENTER(S)</u> Attire Posture Eye contact with audience Gestures and facial expressions Voice volume, projection, expression Word enunciation and pronunciation Rate of speaking					
<u>COMMENTS:</u>					
<u>OVERALL PRESENTATION</u> Audience learned/wants to learn more about this topic					
<u>GENERAL COMMENTS:</u>					

Rabbit Club Costume Contest

This Contest is open to any Rabbit Club Member. One of the biggest contest with the club! This a great time to get creative and have fun. There is no specific theme so you can choose from a variety of ideas.

There are two options to choose from to enter into this contest:

Rabbit Only:

- Rabbit Only option is just that, you create a costume for your rabbit to wear.

Rabbit and Member:

- Rabbit and Rabbit Club Member both create a costume for each of them to wear.

Both categories are judged on Originality, Creativity, Overall Presentation.

Each member will receive a Participate Ribbon and an award will be given to First, Second, and Third Place for each option.

You MUST use one of your rabbits that are on display at Fair.

4-Her's Name: _____ Rabbit's Name: _____ Contest #: _____

WHO OR WHAT is your rabbit (and you) dressed up as?

WHY did you decide to do this? And WHY this costume?

WHEN AND WHERE did you get this idea?

Cutest Bunny Photo Contest

This is a contest that takes place during our Wednesday 4-H Rabbit Show. You may turn in a photo during the check in process on Thursday before the Fair begins and up to 8pm Monday Night. Any Rabbit Club Member can enter up to (1) one picture involving rabbit(s) in a cute or adorable photo. People are not allowed to be in the photo. Any photo showing any animal in a dangerous or harmful way will not be used. The photos will be arranged and on display during the 4-H Show for all members. Voting will last until the show ends on Wednesday. The ballots will be counted and the winner will be announced at the banquet. Pictures will be returned in the members at Banquet. Please make sure you put your name on the photo before you turn it in.

Requirements:

- 4 x 6 photo printed out with your name printed clearly on the back
- (1) one photo per member

Rabbit Club Judging Contest

This contest is where the Rabbit Club Member will be the Judge. There will be 4 sets of 4 Rabbits in each set. There will be Standard of Perfections to use during the Contest. The Rabbit Club Member will place the rabbits to what they think should be first, second, third and fourth place. It is 7 Minute per Judging Set.

The Rabbit Judging Contest will have the following Levels:

- Novice (3rd and 4th Grade)
- Junior (5th and 6th Grade)
- Intermediate (7th and 8th Grade)
- Senior (9th and 10th Grade)
- Master (11th and 12th Grade)

Each member will receive a Participate Ribbon and a Medal during awards for the Grand and Reserve Champion for each Level

4-H Fair Queen Contest

Any female interested in competing in the Elkhart County Queen Contest must be at least 16 years old by the first day of the State Fair. (For additional rules/responsibilities see application) Any female member of the 4-H Rabbit Club may nominate herself or be nominated by another member for consideration. The nominees will be voted on during the March meeting. The nominee with the most votes will be the representative for the 4-H Rabbit Club. The Winner will be announced after the voting.

Once elected to represent the Elkhart County 4-H Rabbit Club, the club will pay for the entry fee. The contestant will be given the entry form to complete and turn into the Fair Office along with a picture and a biography. The contest is only open to the first 50 complete applications, so it is very important you get this done right away. All participants are expected to be present and assist throughout the Fair. (Volunteering at least 5 Hours)